



WHATELY  
MASSACHUSETTS

# Researching Whately's Past, from your house to the Milk Bottle

Whately Historical Commission  
June 18, 2018



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## RESOURCES

- Mass. Historical Commission inventory forms
  - National Register Historic District reports
    - Town Center
    - West Whately
  - Town histories
    - James Crafts (1899)
    - Ena Cane (1972)
  - Whately Historical Society collection
    - photos, objects, letters, books
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## RESOURCES

- Historic Whately maps (family locations, street names)
  - Franklin County Registry of Deeds
  - Whately building permits
  - *findagrave.com* (name, dates, family members, photos)
  - Whately cemetery records
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## MHC inventory forms: background

available for

- Areas (neighborhoods or farms)
- Buildings
- Structures (the Pound, bridges, mill sites)
- Objects (Milk Bottle, Stockade memorial)
- Cemeteries

located

- in print at the Historical Society
  - on line at Mass Historical Comm. (MACRIS)
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## MHC inventory forms: background

provide information on

- dates of note
- historical information
- builders or people of note

for buildings, information also provided on

- architectural style
  - historical structural information
  - history of use and ownership
-

## MHC inventory forms: the online database

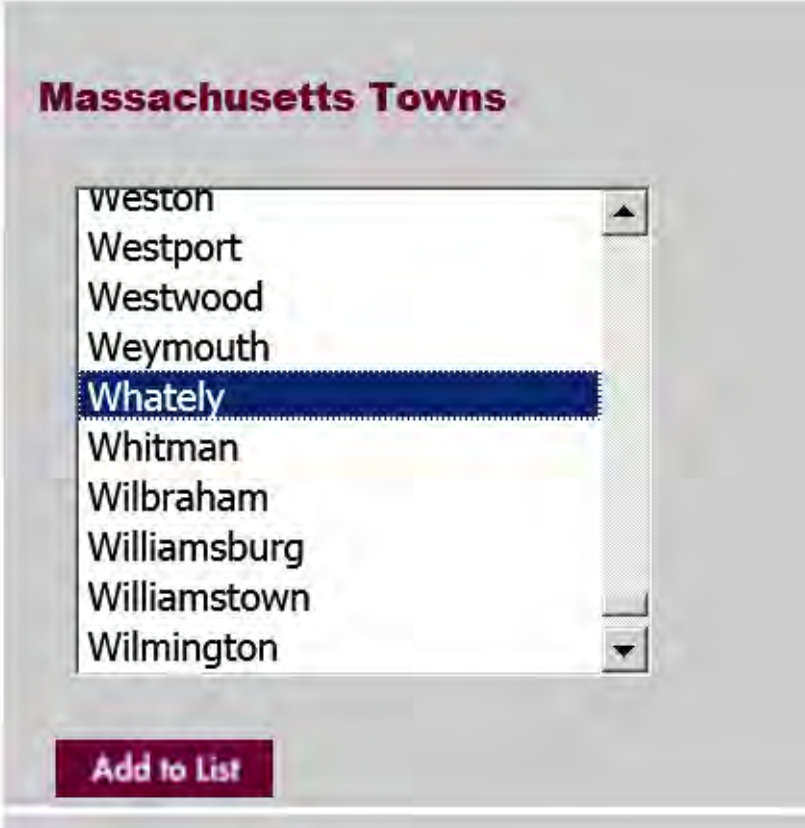
Just Google “MACRIS”.



Click to begin search and acknowledge disclaimer.

## MHC inventory forms: the online database

### 1. Pick the town



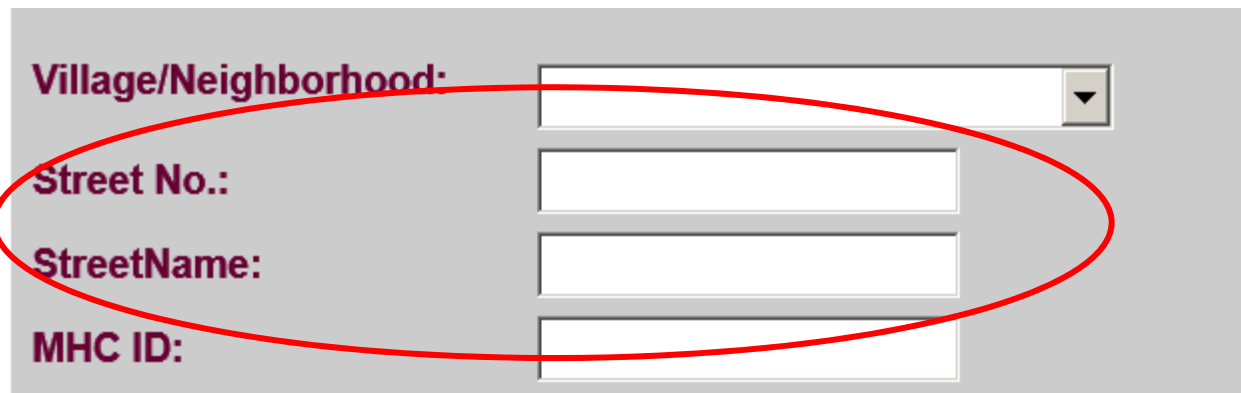
A screenshot of a web-based form titled "Massachusetts Towns" in a maroon font. Below the title is a scrollable list box containing the following towns: Weston, Westport, Westwood, Weymouth, Whately (highlighted with a blue background), Whitman, Wilbraham, Williamsburg, Williamstown, and Wilmington. At the bottom of the list box is a maroon button with the text "Add to List" in white.

Town
Weston
Westport
Westwood
Weymouth
<b>Whately</b>
Whitman
Wilbraham
Williamsburg
Williamstown
Wilmington

**Add to List**

## MHC inventory forms: the online database

2. Enter the address, if you know it



A screenshot of an online form for MHC inventory. The form is set against a light gray background. It contains four input fields arranged vertically. The first field is labeled 'Village/Neighborhood:' and is a dropdown menu. The second field is labeled 'Street No.:'. The third field is labeled 'StreetName:'. The fourth field is labeled 'MHC ID:'. A red oval is drawn around the four input fields, highlighting the address section of the form.

Village/Neighborhood:	<input type="text"/>
Street No.:	<input type="text"/>
StreetName:	<input type="text"/>
MHC ID:	<input type="text"/>

Click on "Next".



## MHC inventory forms: the online database

2. or pick the type of form you'd like to see



The screenshot shows a window titled "Resource Types" with a list of options: Area, Building, Burial Ground, Object, and Structure. Below the list is a red button labeled "Add to List".

Resource Types
Area
Building
Burial Ground
Object
Structure

Add to List









## MHC inventory forms: the online database

### 3. the data base search results: area form

District, neighborhood or building group

On State Register

National Register write-up available

Inv. No.	Property Name	Street	Town	Year	SR			
<a href="#">WHA.A</a>	Whately Center Historic District		Whately		SR			
<a href="#">WHA.B</a>	Morton, Oliver Farm		Whately					
<a href="#">WHA.C</a>	Claverack		Whately					
<a href="#">WHA.D</a>	Crafts, Thomas Farmstead		Whately					

Inventory form available

WHA + letter

## MHC inventory forms: the online database

### 3. the data base search results: other form types

Original owner's name

date

Inv. No.	Property Name	Street	Town	Year	SR			
<a href="#">WHA.105</a>		1 Chestnut Plain Rd	Whately	r 1875			INV	
<a href="#">WHA.106</a>		17 Chestnut Plain Rd	Whately	c 1800			INV	
<a href="#">WHA.107</a>	Frery, Capt. Eleazer Jr. Farmhouse	32 Chestnut Plain Rd	Whately	c 1773				
<a href="#">WHA.108</a>	Frery, Capt. Eleazer Jr. Shed	32 Chestnut Plain Rd	Whately	r 1850				
<a href="#">WHA.109</a>	Frery, Capt. Eleazer Jr. Shed	32 Chestnut Plain Rd	Whately	r 1850				
<a href="#">WHA.110</a>	Frery, Capt. Eleazer Jr. Hay - Horse Barn	32 Chestnut Plain Rd	Whately					



WHA + number

Street & number

## MHC inventory forms: the online database

4. Click on  to open or download the form.

**Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System**  
**Scanned Record Cover Page**

<b>Inventory No:</b>	WHA.19	
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Lesure, Samuel Jr. Store and House	
<b>Common Name:</b>		
<b>Address:</b>	198 Chestnut Plain Rd	
<b>City/Town:</b>	Whately	
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Whately Center	
<b>Local No:</b>	39-24	
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1850	
<b>Architect(s):</b>		
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	No style	
<b>Use(s):</b>	Abandoned or Vacant; Market or Grocery Store; Multiple Family Dwelling House; Post Office; Single Family Dwelling House	
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Commerce; Politics Government	
<b>Area(s):</b>	WHA.A: Whately Center Historic District	
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (09/11/2003)	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard; Wood Shingle Foundation: Brick	

## Supplemental information

from the Crafts history (available online and searchable)

LESURE, SAMUEL, from Warwick, came in 1828. He built the house and his store, about 1850, on the east side of Chestnut Plain street, near the site of the John Crafts house.

p. 101

Intoxicating liquors until about 1828. Eutotus Morton came about that time, 1828, and associated with him was Samuel B. White at the center, east of the old meeting-house. They kept an assortment of merchandise, including spirits. William W. Sanderson sold dry goods and groceries. Samuel Lesure the same

p. 261



## Supplemental information

from the Crafts history (available online and searchable)

In 1830 Levi Bush was appointed postmaster, and in 1841 he was succeeded by Samuel Lesure who occupied the office from that year, with the exception of four years that Dennis Dickinson held the office, until his advanced age compelled his resignation, after which his daughter, Mrs. Samuel B. White, was appointed. She attended to the principal office work, while Mr. Lesure continued to pass out the mail, until his memory of faces and names seemed to fade away. Everyone respected and

p. 296



## Supplemental information

Historical Society (photos, documents and objects)



1888

Arlene Rup & friends, 1900-1910



## Supplemental information

Historical Society (photos, documents and objects)



Simon Smikes, 1970





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## Supplemental information

Historical Society (photos, documents and objects)

*Make a Difference Day* Program, 1995

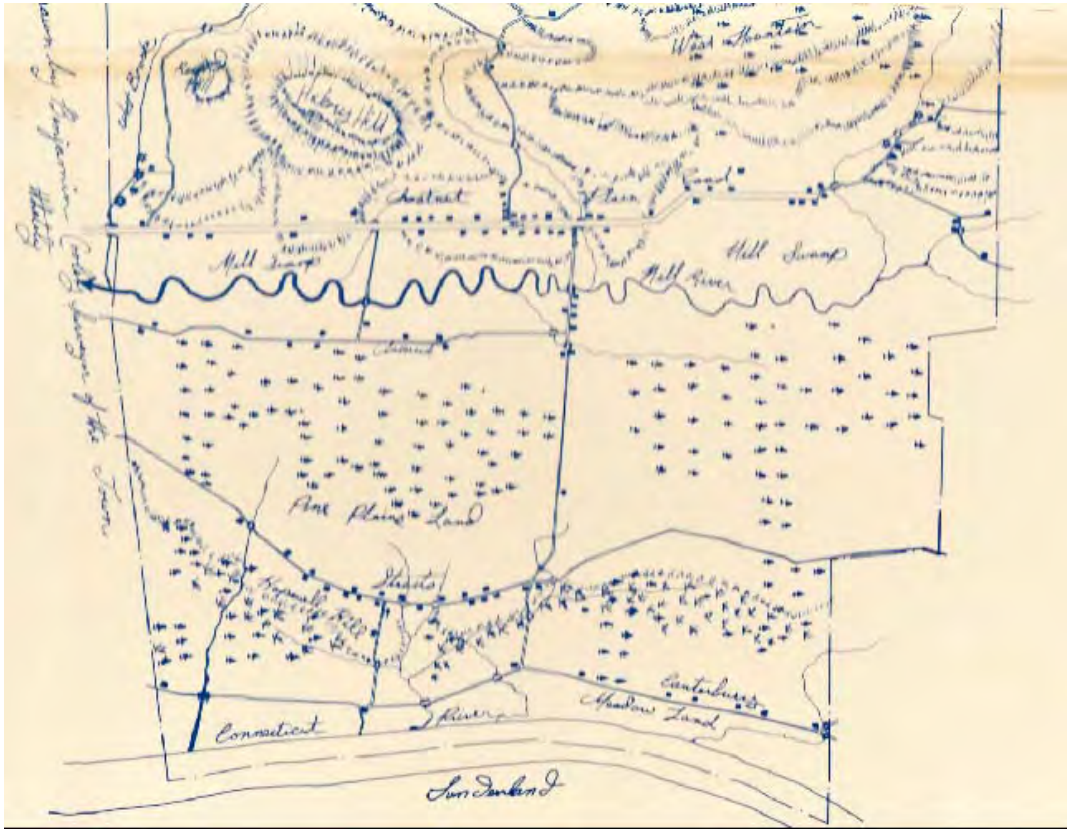
Volunteer day for refurbishing Smikes House for  
affordable housing

Program for Simon Smikes House, Housing for the  
Elderly ribbon cutting ceremony, July 17, 1997 at  
5pm

“Dream House for Elderly finally realized in Whately”,  
newspaper clipping, July 23, 1997

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## Information on old street names, topographical names

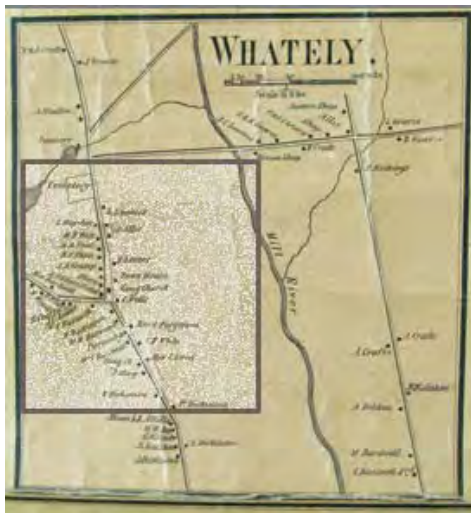


## 1830 Cooley map as redrawn by Don Sluter

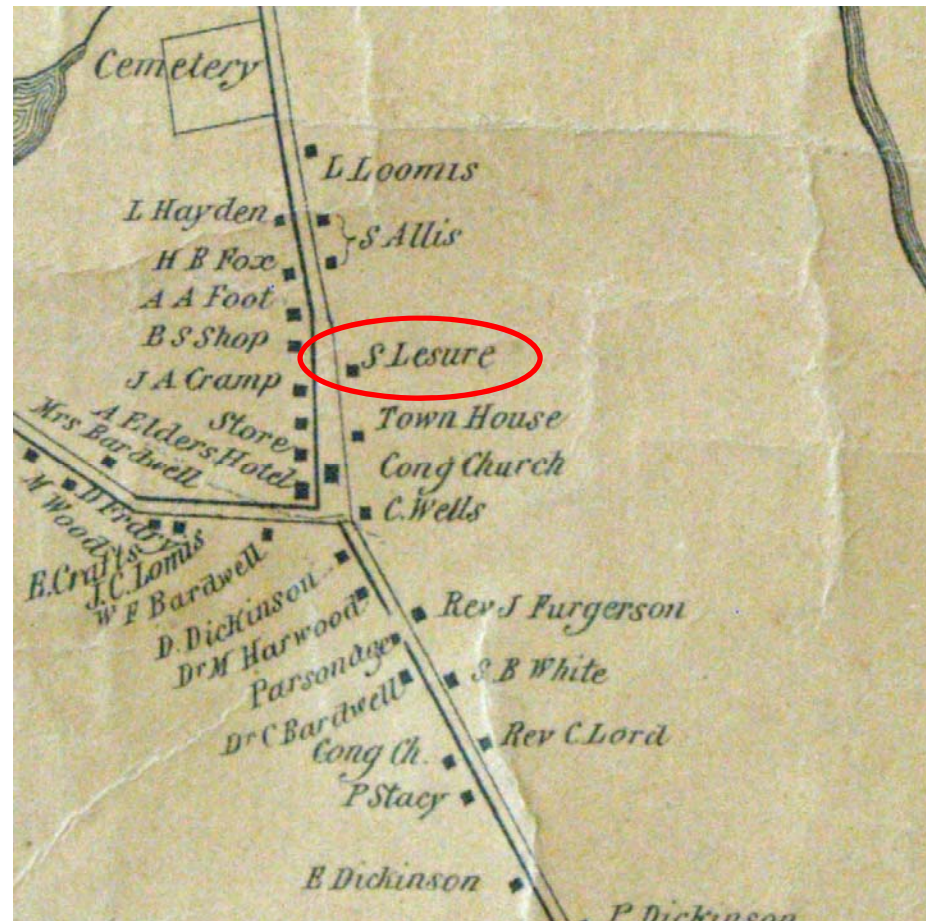
# Historic Whately Maps

Information on location of families, businesses, town buildings

area of  
detail



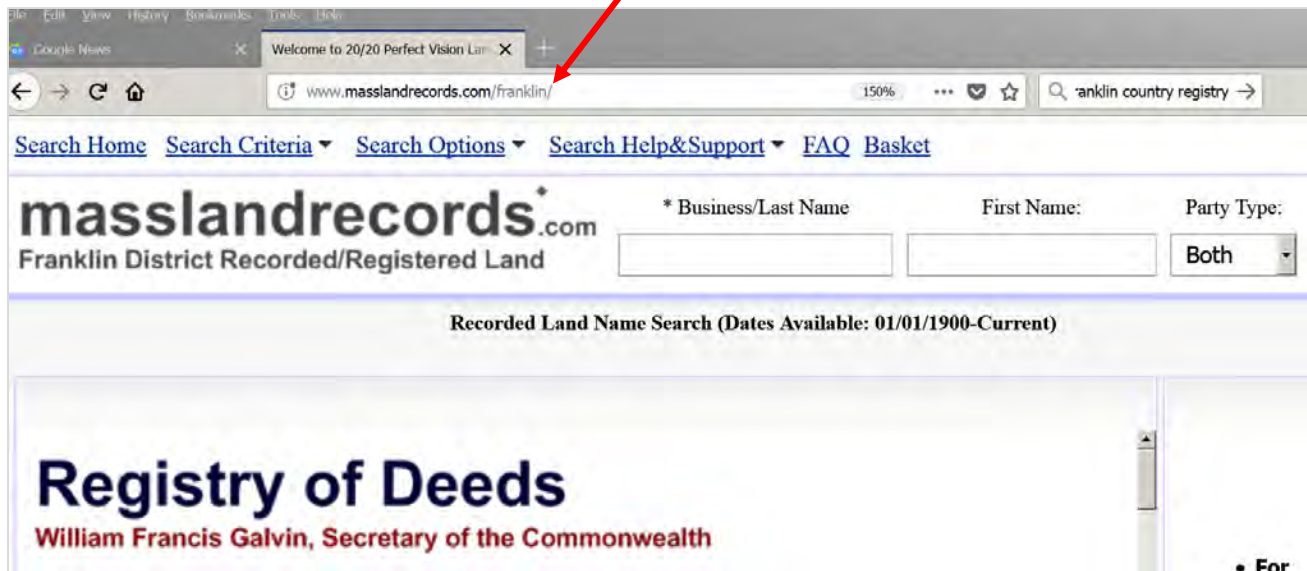
Whately Center, Walling, 1858



# Registry of Deeds

Google Franklin County MA registry

masslandrecords.com/franklin/



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying [www.masslandrecords.com/franklin/](http://www.masslandrecords.com/franklin/). A red arrow points from the URL text above to the address bar. The website header includes navigation links: [Search Home](#), [Search Criteria](#), [Search Options](#), [Search Help&Support](#), [FAQ](#), and [Basket](#). The main content area features the **masslandrecords.com** logo and the text "Franklin District Recorded/Registered Land". Below this is a search form with three input fields: "\* Business/Last Name", "First Name:", and "Party Type:". The "Party Type:" field is a dropdown menu currently set to "Both". Under the search form, it says "Recorded Land Name Search (Dates Available: 01/01/1900-Current)". At the bottom, there is a large blue heading "Registry of Deeds" and the text "William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth".



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## Registry of Deeds

Search by

- name
- book
- property
- recorded date
- grantor or grantee index (1663-1974)

Tutorial available on home page

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# Registry of Deeds

**masslandrecords.com**  
Franklin District Recorded/Registered Land

name search

\* Business/Last Name

First Name:

Smikes

**Recorded Land Name Search (Dates Available: 01/01/1900-Current) Business/Last Name: Smikes Party Type: Both Party Type 2**  
**Town: Search All Towns From: 1/1/1900 To: 6/13/2018 ( Total: 0.02 seconds, 2 ro**

[Select All](#) | [Invert Selection](#) | [Deselect All](#) | [Print Search Result](#) | View: [20/Page](#) [50/Page](#) [100/Page](#)

	<u>Type</u>	<u>Name/ Corporation</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Type Desc.</u>	<u>Rec. Date</u>	<u>Street #</u>	<u>Property Descr</u>	<u>Town</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	GT	<a href="#">SMIKES SIMON A EST</a>	<a href="#">02131</a>	<a href="#">37</a>	<a href="#">RELEASE</a>	<a href="#">8/4/1987</a>	<a href="#">MAIN ST</a>		<a href="#">WHATELY</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	GR	<a href="#">SMIKES SIMON A EST</a>	<a href="#">02191</a>	<a href="#">152</a>	<a href="#">DEED</a>	<a href="#">2/11/1988</a>	<a href="#">MAIN ST</a>		<a href="#">WHATELY</a>

Wrong street, explains why property search failed.

findagrave.com

Links at [whatelyhistorical.org](http://whatelyhistorical.org) and  
[whatelycemeteries.wordpress.com](http://whatelycemeteries.wordpress.com)




Photo added by [James Bianco](#)

## Samuel Lesure

BIRTH	23 Jul 1803
DEATH	29 Nov 1894 (aged 91)
BURIAL	<a href="#">Center Cemetery</a> Whately, Franklin County, Massachusetts, USA
MEMORIAL ID	127195574 · <a href="#">View Source</a>

SHARE [+ SAVE TO](#) SUGGEST EDITS

[MEMORIAL](#) PHOTOS [1](#) FLOWERS [0](#)



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## Potential Research Pitfalls

- Not all sources are 100% accurate.
- Spelling of names can change over time.
- Confusion over two people with the same name.
- Roads may be renamed
  - Claverack to State Road
  - Straits Road to Long Plain Road
  - part of Chestnut Plain to North Street
- Streets are renumbered.

But it's still fun and worthwhile.

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